



The Dallas Express



Founded by W. E. King

"The Republican Party Is The Ship, All Else Is The Sea."—Fred Douglas.

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HILLSBORO STEPS IN THE LIMELIGHT AND BRAGG WILLIAMS IS BURNED AT STAKE

ACCUSED WAS SENTENCED TO HANG FEBRUARY 21

TAKEN IN HAND BY AN "ORDERLY MOB" AND EXECUTED WITH LITTLE EXCITEMENT. OFFICERS OFFER NO RESISTANCE. SEVERAL HUNDRED TOOK PART IN THE DEMONSTRATION.

It must be true for we take the following despatch from the front page of the Dallas News of Tuesday, Jan. 21, 1919. Comment unnecessary. The despatch says: Hillsboro, Texas, Jan. 20.—Bragg Williams, Negro, who confessed to the murder of Mrs. George Wells and her little son at their home near Itasca, Dec. 2, was taken from jail here at 1 o'clock this afternoon and burned to death on the public square. Earlier in the day he had been sentenced to be hanged on Feb. 21. He was convicted last week. Williams, who had been in jail in Dallas for safe keeping, was brought to Hillsboro, this morning to receive sentence, which was passed by Judge Horton Porter of the District Court. Williams was then taken to the county jail. Attorneys Walter Collins and A. M. Frazier, who were appointed to defend Williams served under protest. The defense moved for a new trial on, on this being refused, gave notice of appeal.

Shortly afternoon a crowd went to the jail and demanded that Williams be turned over to them. The demand was refused. The outer door of the jail was broken with a sledgehammer and preparations were made to batter down the cell door, but some one in the crowd secured possession of the cell keys by overpowering a guard. The Negro was brought out and led to the public square. Williams was chained to the concrete "safety first" post on the square. Hay, wood and coal were piled about him and over the mass was poured several gallons of coal oil. Then a match was applied. Williams lived but a few minutes in the flames, probably not more than five. He is said to have made no outcry at his fate further than to say "Help me, Cap." three times. At the jail Williams is said to have denied outraging his victim. While a great many persons gathered around the burning Negro, business was not suspended and there was very little excitement.

THE NEGRO WELFARE BOARD OF DALLAS—ITS WORK REVIEWED

By N. W. Harlike.

When Mr. Lawther was elected mayor of this city he said that it was his purpose to be mayor of all the people, regardless of those who voted against him, and to show that he expected to live up to this declaration of official statement, among the first steps that he took was to establish a Welfare Board composed of Colored men of standing and ability. In order that he might make a wise selection and secure the kind of men he desired to serve on this important board, he requested a leading race man to send him a list of fifty men, and from this list he selected eleven persons who should be the members of the Welfare Board. The following persons were selected and entered upon the performance of the high duty of their office: Prof. J. P. Starks, S. W. J. Lowry, J. C. Jordan, Dr. A. L. Ransley, Chas. T. Brackens, Dr. A. H. Hyson, Rev. A. S. Jackson, Albert Hutcherson, Dr. R. T. Hamilton, Hon. M. M. Rodgers, Hon. A. S. Wells. These gentlemen are to look after the interests of the Colored people, and recommend to the mayor from time to time the improvements needed, and they are many and urgent, such as sanitary conditions, street improvements, and sewerage connections. What an important trust and how needful it is. Sentinels of sanitation, guardians of cleanliness. When it is taken in consideration that an unsanitary condition prevailing in one part of the city, on dangers every other part, a small sore on the little finger, may develop blood poison and endanger the whole body, or the injury of the left eye, may through sympathy cause the right eye to be lost. Small pox in the cabin may enter the palace; the peasant suffering from the effect of yellow fever may endanger the king on his throne. Every part of the city regardless of who lives in that section, should be cared for and made sanitary and comfortable, lifted up out of the mud, beautified for the good of all, for all are heirs of a common lot, the contagious diseases. Besides this, every one would be proud of his city, proud of her name, would take a deeper and abiding interest in her welfare. Where did the idea originate to make one section of the city sanitary and permit the other to be unsanitary? Where is the wisdom in it? Why it is permitted is a surprise. In our large cities such as New York and Philadelphia, Houston and Galveston, our mayor doubtless found all nationalities on the police force, especially in the cities of New York and Boston, and upon inquiry, he was told that the Irish were put there because the Irish police knew the characteristics of the Irish; that the French were put on, because they knew the traits of the French; that the German were put on for a similar reason; and that the Negro police were selected in these

cities such as Galveston and Houston, because they knew the hiding places of the criminal element of their people, and more than that to be fair in protecting the common interests of all and giving all representation in the city. Our city has a commission, form of government. This is a wise feat of government. The government by commission viewed from every angle, has been for the most part a success, and we may expect in the near future more cities to adopt the commission form of government. This form of municipal government is least expensive, and more satisfactory than that of the unwieldy body of councilmen who talk for mere affectation. The Negro Welfare Board has not been idle, when we consider its accomplishments, and the Herculean task it had before it. It was an honor in the first place to be named a member of this board, and a great honor to bring about any degree of accomplishment in so short a time that would be so effective of results, and yet that was what this welfare board has done to their credit and to the race which it has the distinguished honor to represent. What are some of its accomplishments through recommendation to the Hon. Mayor? Let us enumerate them. This Welfare Board asked for a tubercular hospital for our tubercular patients, where they might be treated and enter the race for recovery and this prayer has been answered, and soon our patients instead of drifting hither and thither, will go to the house of healing and of hope, and be treated with the best methods known to the medical skill. For this one consideration, granted our board, we should appreciate its noble and unselfish efforts put forth for the afflicted and unfortunate. In the establishment of this tubercular hospital, Dallas has made a long stride in the right direction. The marvel is why such a hospital was not established years ago for our people, not only ours, but for all persons suffering with this disease. It takes time, and experience to convince the public that such institutions are needed. Many patients will be benefited if not cured. Then what is better the spread of this disease will be curbed to some extent by confining it to a certain location. The Board has secured \$10,000 for sewerage connections on Trinidad. Our Welfare Board recommended the appointment of a district nurse to look after the sick of our people, one well experienced and skilled in her profession, and this has been done. Miss Marrietta Gordon, accomplished nurse received the appointment and how well she has performed her duties as a nurse may be vouched for by the patients she has nursed back to health and happiness. She is a nurse with a reputation of being careful and tender in applying the remedies and prescriptions. Miss Gordon is on the

city's pay roll for nursing Colored patients. A thing new in our city; if not in the entire South. Mrs. S. A. McCall, another lady, recommended by our Welfare Board, she works under the direction of the chairman of the United Charities, filling a position long since needed among our people in this city. She comes to us highly recommended having been engaged in the hospital at the Prairie View State Normal. Already the effect of her good work is seen and appreciated in many parts of the city among our people. She is from house to house of the afflicted as an angel of mercy seeking to give comfort through the efforts of the United Charities, thus bearing the balm and oil to those who are afflicted.

When we consider our children, when we look out for their welfare, we but perform our highest and best duty for in them is the hope of the race, and in the employment of Mrs. Hilaria Morgan, the Welfare Board has put itself on record as doing the best thing possible, for Mrs. Morgan's duty is to study the child's welfare, and what shall we say about this new thing and unheard of thing among our people in this city, the study of the welfare of Colored children? We have heard of the welfare of the stock at our state fair, but who has heard before now the study of the welfare of the Colored children of this city. What stride we are taking through the representation of our welfare board. At last we have reached the child. It has become a custom of late years to work through boards as much more can be accomplished in that direction. Great institutions are now governed through boards, banks, great funds, trusts and the like. We ought to be more interested in civic affairs.

In a decade of years, a different story will be told with regard to the health of our children with some to investigate their condition, their ills, their short comings, and their defects. Much has been said about hog culture, but not till now has one word been said about the Colored child's physical condition, its perfection, its bodily growth, its progress toward a perfect youth and for this one thing we are to give the welfare board the banner.

We are carrying out King Solomon's decree that we should measure the child with the rod, that is, measure to find out its mental and physical development, as well as the old fashion methods, which were applied only to the body, when it was meant for both. The work of the Welfare Board to be appreciated is but to be seen and investigated. The wisdom of its denials. That it has not gotten all that it has recommended should be no surprise at all, but the surprise should be that they have done as well as they have when we stop to think how slowly public opinion crystallizes when it is to do things for the Colored man. May we not think that other gates will soon open, other doors of opportunity, other square deals for all, that in the square of the lamented Roosevelt, "All Men up and no Man Down." The Negro Welfare Board of Dallas is to be congratulated for its effective and untiring effort for our people. We also appreciate the consideration of the Hon. Mr. Lawther, our mayor, and we wish for his continued success in lifting our section out of the mud, and making it sanitary in every respect, remembering that the bad health of one may effect the health of many.

TELL IT NOT IN GOTH.

There has been a black man burned at Hillsboro, by white men. Let us hope that the news will be kept out of Europe. It might affect the Liberty Manufacturers, Woodrow Wilson & Company.

DICKSON'S ORPHANAGE.

While the Superintendent is away on his laborious tour trying to close his ninety day campaign with success, the devoted and faithful teachers at the home are leaving no stone unturned to keep things moving on. The children are well, happy and faithful to duties. They are still receiving Xmas remembrance that are serviceable and much needed from friends, both white and black in different parts of the state. The home enjoyed quite a rare treat in the form of a musical recital. Miss A. V. King, the musical instructor presented her class in their recital. The effort far surpassed the expectation of a very appreciative audience. We are proud of Miss King and the work she is doing here. All forces are now centered on the big rally to be held in New Hope church, Dallas, Sunday 26. The children of the home have a real musical treat in store for that occasion. Miss B. E. Bowman, private secretary to the Superintendent is expected business in the office, although the Superintendent is away. Her services are invaluable. From the children of the home, W. L. DICKSON, Supt. and Mgr.

LOCAL KNIGHTS HEAR GRAND CHANCELLOR

Enthusiastic Meeting At Pythian Temple on Monday Night

PYTHIANISM PARAMOUNT

Many Grand Lodge Officers in Attendance. Dr. Hamilton Responds.

A goodly number of the 800 Knights of Pythias, resident in Dallas, turned out Monday night to hear Hon. W. S. Willis, the Grand Chancellor in his annual address. Knight J. L. Patton called the meeting to order and introduced Knight Napoleon Gwinn, D. G. G. C. who presided. Prayer was delivered by Rev. W. L. Dickson. Without preliminary, Grand Chancellor waded into his subject. Among other things he said: "Brave knights, I have come on here to meet with you that we may together finally resolve that in the planning and planning of this noble institution, that our fathers did not labor in vain—that the great work by which the Masons, this most difficult science, what they accomplished is the marvel of the age. Today the white man's industrial insurance company is our competitor and it remains to be seen if we will prove true to the fathers. He cited the American National Insurance Company as one of the alabaster sky scrapers at Galveston, in which it did not use even a Colored janitor, notwithstanding 90 percent of its funds came from Negro insurance. He contrasted the sky scraper in Galveston with the Grand Pythian Temple at Dallas and told the crowd to draw its own conclusion. He paid a glowing tribute to the

virtue of our women and the glory of our men in arms, and declared that the time was here to build the Uniform Rank to something colossal. The address was well received and the Grand Chancellor was wildly cheered. Grand Lecturer, L. B. Kincheon, on old time favorite, Dr. A. S. Jackson of the Board of Directors, Dr. W. R. Roberts, President of Endowment Board and Grand Attorney, R. D. Evans, were all on the platform and upon being called made happy remarks. At the request of the presiding officer, Dr. R. T. Hamilton, the popular physician and secret society advocate made response, assuming the Grand officers that the braves of Dallas were loyal to a man and at all times had their war paint on and clubs in hand. He was glad to see the time had come when business was to be put in the lodge.

DR. R. E. JONES
Of Vicksburg, Mississippi Going to France on February 9 as Special Staff Correspondent of the Dallas Express.

In keeping with the usual enterprise of the Dallas Express, we have secured the services and given credentials to Dr. R. E. Jones of Vicksburg, as special staff correspondent of the Dallas Express at the Peace Conference, now sitting in Paris, France. The sending of Dr. Jones to Paris at this time is a guarantee that the readers of the Dallas Express will have on and after his arrival, news first hand of the great tribunal. Dr. Jones is an experienced journalist, a fluent speaker and lucid writer, these qualities coupled with his rare ability to agreeably mix with men and find out what is going to happen among them, makes his position on our staff of more than passing importance. So far as we know no other Afro-American journal will have its own special staff correspondent at Paris, except the Chicago Defender.

DISTINGUISHED CATHOLIC HERE.

The many friends, both protestant and Catholic of Father J. J. Ferdinand, who was the first priest sent here to the only Catholic church here, are this week shaking hands with him by way of welcoming his return. Father Ferdinand, while here in charge of the church also established the Catholic school for Colored youth, which is in a flourishing condition.

CITY MINISTERS TO HOLD IMPORTANT MEETING.

Next Wednesday at St. James A. M. E. church; the city ministers of all evangelical denominations will meet to reorganize and elect officers. President Starks is not a candidate for re-election.

LAURELS FOR 325TH, ONLY COLORED SIGNAL BATTALION IN A. E. F.

By Ralph W. Tyler.

Accredited Representative of The Committee on Public Information

ARTICLE X

With the American Army in France. Be Mans, Dec. 20.—One of the units of the American army to arrive here en route for embarkation to America that has made good, without having the glamour and spectacular settings of combat is the 325th Field Signal Battalion, the only Colored signal unit in the American Army. While this battalion has not had to occupy front line trenches; make raids for prisoners, or march in battle formation, into big engagements, it must not be supposed that it did not have a dangerous, and a very dangerous duty to perform. The boys of this battalion had to string the wires for telegraphic and telephonic connections at times when the enemy guns were trained upon them; so in many respects, their duty took them into situations fully as dangerous as combat units. The battalion is composed of all young Colored men, save the Lieutenant-Colonel, Major, and two or three white line officers. They are all, with few exceptions, college or high school boys, not a few of them experts in radio and electric engineering, and those who were not experts in the work when the battalion was formed, are now most proficient men. Major Spencer, now Lieutenant-Colonel, who was responsible for the formation of this unit, was firm in the belief that Colored boys could make good, and he has remained with it long enough to experience his belief becoming a realization. After arriving at Brest, June 19th, the battalion pro-

ceeded to Vitrey, and from that town began a four-day hike to Bourdonneles-Bains, a distance of more than 20 miles. From this point it proceeded, after a few days, to Volsey, and at Volsey the boys got their first taste of what was to be later, the daily duties. Here the radio company received its quota of the latest type of French instruments, a battery plant was established, and a full supply of telephones and wire was issued to companies F and C. Here too, the Infantry Signal Platoon of the battalion joined the outfit and shared in the training. The first test of real courage given the men, and their first introduction into real fighting, in addition to stringing wires, and sending and receiving radio messages, came on the afternoon of September 27. When a party of liaison men, including the Colonel and Lieut. H. Robert, latter being Colored, advanced beyond the battalion P. C. and at the suggestion of a French soldier, turned to the left. They soon found themselves beyond their lines, and directly in front of a German machine gun nest. The Colonel divided his men into small groups and advanced on the enemy's position. This sortie resulted in the Signal boys capturing eight German prisoners and two machine guns, but the attack caused the loss of Corporal Charles E. Boykin, who did not return. Two days later, during general advance, Sergeant Henry E. Moody, of the Battalion, was mortally wounded while at his post. Boykin was killed outright, while Sergeant Moody died in the hospital from wounds received—these being

(Continued on page 4.)

"THE COUNTRY MAN IN TOWN" ALL RECORDS BROKEN

DR. C. C. HARPER AS A CROWD GETTER GOES OVER THE TOP. HIS GREAT LECTURE FILLS ST. JOHN BAPTIST CHURCH HALF HOUR BEFORE TIME ANNOUNCED. MANY TURNED AWAY.

It was ten minutes before 3:00 o'clock, the opening hour when I approached the main entrance to St. John Baptist church in Allen street, and I saw the streets about the house of prayer filled with men either away or trying to see through the windows, many of which were partially raised. On inquiry I found that every seat had been taken on floor and in gallery and the aisles were crowded. The house had been stormed by men determined to hear Dr. Harper in his great lecture, "The Country man in Town."

A church official seeing me beckoned and I followed picking my way to the front where he had thoughtfully preserved for me a chair and table. The great audience of good looking, prosperous men sang with spirit "I Need Thee Every Hour," and Rev. Dunfee read the 12th chapter of Romans. Seven men then rendered: "Were you there when they crucified my Lord?" Without further preliminaries, Dr. Harper proceeded to deliver his lecture. "Like the man who upon one occasion was to make a saloon speech, said, 'Dr. Harper, I am full of my subject.' He went on: 'You who have come here today to hear a lot of rubbish will be disappointed, and likewise those who expect to hear only such words as are spoken in Sunday school.' 'So I want to tell you, that the worse I will use today is: 'dam-fool; but you needn't go tell it.' Of course for the time being the women are excluded, but I dare say I will take my text in the 39th chapter of Genesis—The scene is laid in Potaphar's House and His Wife and Joseph are the star characters. This woman approached Joseph say-

ing, 'Come and lie with me;' but Joseph answered, nothin' doin'. Joseph set an example which it would be well for you fellows to follow and there would be less trouble and fewer homes broken up and lives destroyed. I was hoping that some whites would be out. Are there any? (A voice, yes there are three or four back yonder in the audience). Well, I want to tell you young Colored men who work around the houses of white people stay clear of their women. They are forbidden fruit. Once upon a time a white woman addressed a note to a wise train porter. It said: 'I want to see you' and was signed: 'The Girl that Looked at You.' The porter didn't see her but said to himself, 'I am the boy that wasn't there. He faithful to your women. I have this to say to the unfaithful family man, if you neglect your wife and family and give your means to a spect (woman) you are a dam fool.' (Heavenly applause).

The doctor having gotten the crowd to whooping pulled off his gloves and waded out in his subject giving instance and anecdote to match, covering the every day life of the men of the world in true Sam Jones' fashion. He paid his respects to the joy riders, the midnight 'horse-back dwellers, the gamblers and gambler's; the whores and harlots and dancing artists in a manner, never before witnessed in this city. The men who are sustained by ropes and cushions, had their robes cleaned, while the man who was a disappointment, was warned that the wages of his sin was death. He called on the men to come up and stand with him on higher ground and be a credit to their maker and declared that the men who preferred a course which could lead to ruin, were coming in for punishment proportionate to their crimes. "The old man," he said, who counseled young men not to marry and encouraged them to live with women, are unworthy of a Front Row in Hell." The crowd after dismissal came leaving out of the church, more or less in silence and the old tars in the bunch had a thought for the night at least.

ANTI-LYNCH LAW SUBMITTED TO GOVERNOR BY ATTY. DAWKINS

The following is a Law drawn on lynching and submitted to the Governor on January the 8th, 1919, and remarks made on the same by Attorney J. E. Dawkins, 424 East 6th Street, Austin, Texas. His Excellency, W. P. Hobby, Governor of Texas.

Sir: I represent a subcommittee of the committee which was granted an audience by you on Monday, Dec. 30, 1918, and according to your request we now submit to you in person or to have read to you in its entirety, for it vitally affects the Negro far and near in the remotest corners of this great state. In substance, during last summer, in speaking to a Colored audience I heard a very distinguished white gentleman say that various things make for patriotism and loyalty to one's country, among them is the possession of property, wealth, homes and families and employment in a large measure of political, industrial, and civic rights, but the possession of these by the Negro is negligible; yet, when the white man called him and informed him that the freedom of his country was in danger, he awoke from his couch of inactivity, sprang to his white brothers' side, and during the conflict which followed proportionate to his wealth and numbers, the contribution of the Negro in treasure and in blood, in fidelity and in sacrifice challenges comparison with that of any other race or nationality enjoying the privileges and opportunities of this republic. He trained in the various contumacious. He braved the surging waters of the stormy Atlantic where the German submarines, the lurking wolves, the cowardly coyotes, the assassins of the sea lay in wait to torpedo him and to send him to fathomless depths below. The Negro soldier with the spirit of the lowly Nazarene throbbing in his heart and pulsating through his bosom as he died upon Calvary's rugged brow to make men holy, so under the leadership of the white man and at his white brothers' side did the Negro die on the vine-chill hill and in the blood-soaked trenches of France to make men free; and

the Bible says greater love than this has no man that he lay down his life for his friends and the Negro soldier at the behest of this government laid down his life in order that Europe might be free from German domination and American in the future might be free from German encroachment. On the fatal field of Europe the Negro soldier bore the splashing waters of the cold Jordan's stream and marched with his white brother through the valley and shadow of death to make the world free and safe for democracy, and we come to you, to your excellency, as the governor of this great state to ameliorate the home condition, the condition in Texas of the Colored citizen and their race of the khaki clad boys, who caused the American eagle to seize autocracy in its talons and with the sparkle of the sun in its eye, to flap his wings and to utter a scream that shook the continent of Europe from circumference to center and now causes the German nation to shudder with awe and with terror. We petition you to use your utmost endeavor to chase mobocracy forever beyond the confines of this great state of ours. Texas is great in size, great in resources, the greatest in the Union; may she under your leadership be the greatest injustice to the Negro race, as a fitting tribute to the loyalty of that race and to the memory of the black boys who died to maintain the honor of their state and dignity of their nation. The great commoner, James Stephen, Hogg in his message to the 24th legislature in 1895 among other things had this to say in reference to mob law: "Common sense is against it. State pride is against it. And every instinct of humanity should be against such a crime as mob murder. When a man commits an offense, under the laws of this state, the Constitution guarantees to him a fair, impartial public trial. There can be no man in his cooler moments who would not revolt at the destruction of these constitutional safeguards. There is little sentiment or excessive sympathy where to support the spirit of mob violence. Those who contend for it

(Continued on page 4.)